























## Louise McNeill's Last Book



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from the profound to the playful, some as short as the three lines she called "Couple":

You have not changed —  
for Time is kind;  
Your face — to me —  
is never lined;  
As you grow wrinkled,  
I grow blind.

McNeill collaborated with Charnaston writer Topper Sherwood in preparing the manuscript for the book. *Fermi Buffalo*, 91 pages, sells for \$29.95 in hardback and \$12.95 in paperback. The book may be purchased in bookstores or from the University of Pittsburgh Press, 127 North Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15260.

pounding and sawing here in the bounding summers — just back from Yankton prison, so many years ago that Mama would call me from my wanderings. It was time to carry my furniture, to reinstall the windows, and hang the clean curtains on their wooden rods. So our dragging and putting would begin all over! Then Mama would take — as all women must take — a spell of rearranging the furniture, a fit which would double the burden and require the transfer of dressers, tables, and what-nots of various kind. But the Captain's black walnut hutch would always be put back into its exact old place against the wall; and the carved handle of its upper right-hand drawer would stare out at me, saying, "Do Not Touch. I am the Captain's Drawer."

After Mama's shifting and staring were over, we would carry the gear back into the kitchen — the stove still absent — and rearrange the cupboard shelves. Then the beds must be put together; their side pieces knocked into their places with a hammer; and the slats laid on, the springs, the straw tick, then the feather tick — in that order; and then the beds made up for the night. And the shining windows reinstalled with nails and hammer, and the sweet-smelling curtains hung.

Then, by late supper time, G. D. would come to help carry the range

back into the kitchen and — after an immortal struggle — manage to get the stovepipe into its hole.

But all of Mama's housecleanings did not go as smooth and sunny as this one typical day. One time a sudden rainstorm swooped down on us from Bridger's Mountain, with Mama running to gather up G. D.'s books, yelling at us to "get in the feather ticks" and the rain inundating a great scattering of our household effects.

Then that other and historic day when G. D. arrived at late noon hour to announce calmly that State School Superintendent Maurice P. Shawkey was arriving for a fried chicken supper at half-past six. It was this day that G. D. helped us carry in the furniture, helped nail down the carpet, labored manfully to get the window strips back in place. And all of us kids running back and forth for loads of old coats, kitchen equipment, shirts and neckties, leather volumes of Charles Dickens, chamber pots, bed ticks, spice boxes — and G. D. pounding the kitchen stovepipe into its black, ill-fitting hole.

By four o'clock the house was furnished, though the spice boxes were under the bed and the empty straw ticks stuffed into the closet. The beds looked a little low, of course, and the curtains wrinkled; but the fire was flickering in the kitchen stove, and Mama was out in the big

yard, ready to direct us as we ran the doomed chickens down. She selected three fairly young red roosters and set us on the trail. Around and around the big yard we pursued the first one, the rooster, his head up like a plumed Indian, running with his legs high and squawking wildly and doubling out and in. Round and round the yard and then round and round the chicken house; and the dog with his death howl, and Mama flapping her apron on the turns.

But finally he was cornered, then his two wild brothers with him; and all three carried, squawking and flailing, to the chopping block, where Mama dispatched them, in turn, with one practiced flash of the ax; then popped them into a scalding kettle; jerked their feathers off in big handfuls; and — lighting a copy of the *Toledo Blade* — singed them with the flaming headlines; and then rushed, her eyes cold and her apron bloody, into the kitchen to gut them, cut them, and pop them into the pot.

At 6:30, while G. D. and State Superintendent Shawkey sat in the parlor talking, Mama was setting down in front of G. D.'s plate at the dining table a great platter of golden-brown fried chicken, then adding her dishes of creamy mashed potatoes, gravy, canned green beans, spiced peaches, pickles, and hot biscuits, and warm blackberry pie. As she moved around the table in her clean starched apron, she seemed — except for the strange gleam in her gentle blue eyes — as quiet as a rose.

Then she went in and invited the two men to supper, apologizing for her biscuits as they sat down. When we were all pulled up to the table, and our starched napkins unfolded, G. D. cleared his throat and asked Superintendent Shawkey to say the grace.

"Thank you for the blessing this day; bless this food to use..." And Mama sitting there with her hands folded and her head devoutly in prayer. For, as she used to say, "Cleanliness is next to Godliness," and "Many hands make light work." \*

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Perhaps the labor was not actually as heavy as it now seems to me, for we had only wooden furniture; and Grandpa's black walnut dining table was only eight feet long; the glass parlor stove easy enough for four people to carry; and, besides, the day itself gave forth its air of singular flurry and excitement, of new beginnings and hot soapsuds and cleansing sun.

The first thing Mama would do was to get the parlor stove out and stored for the summer in the smokehouse. Then she would take a hammer and screwdriver and start her attack on the windows — the small-paned, cordless variety — for they must be removed, their casing strips coming down with them; then all the windows lagged out carefully into the dooryard and leaned up against the plank fence to receive their ablutions of warm water and homemade soap.

Then all the furniture, odds and ends, rugs, books, and dishes must be carried or dragged out onto the yard grass and the clothes hung on the clothesline to sun. This great out-going would include, of course, all the old-fashioned beds, with their slats, springs, feather ticks and straw ticks — a mass of wood, metal and striped ticking that would be scattered in a confused tangle all across the front yard.

Then the cleaning would begin with buckets of hot water from the boiling kettle and buckets of clean cold water for the rinse. And, of course, into the hot water Mama

would put handfuls of her soft hOMEMADE soap, that brownropy substance that she and Granny — in its own season — had made from hog grease and ash lye. This soft soap, along with its peculiar clean stink, was the very center of cleaning day and the very cleaning princess itself — the bedsteads to be washed with it and the windows and even the inside of the dresser drawers — so that now its strange brown smell comes back to me, but it is not the scent of cinnamon rose. Instead, it is a wild, brown, acid, slightly chemical smell, with a taint of rancid hog grease in it and with that sweet fragrance of childhood memory, soapsuds and joy and springtime sun. And a world away from "ring around the collar," Downy, Tide, and Cheer.

Mama would be pouring soapsuds on the glass of the windows and washing them off with an old rag. Then she would turn the windows over, wash the other side, slosh buckets of cold rinse water on them, and leave them drying in the sun.

Usually during this initial stage of the festivities, Ward would be patiently cleaning out the kitchen stove and stovepipe with a wire and sticks and an old feather duster, the winter's collection of soot floating dangerously close to the clothesline; and the old dog barking his excitement; the clothes flapping merrily on the line.

The hired woman, left inside the house, would be scrubbing the wide-board floors, dusting the

walls and ceilings with a rag-covered broom, and washing the painted woodwork with slathers of brown soap.

Elizabeth and I might be assigned to "red up" the dresser drawers, wash the reams of kitchen utensils, and wipe off G. D.'s multiplying tribe of books. As we cleaned the drawers, there was one drawer we must never open. It was the right-hand upper drawer of Grandpa's black walnut highboy — the drawer that was never opened except by the Head of the House. That was G. D., and G. D. was to town or far off in the field sumplace.

We knew Grandpa as the Captain, from his Civil War service, so the drawer was never opened because it was "the Captain's drawer," though by 1920 — say 1920 was the year of this specific cleaning — the old Captain had been dead for many years. But his drawer was never opened; and not opened now, either, except by the oldest male member — because it is the Captain's drawer. So, back then, Elizabeth and I would neatén and refold sheets and pillowcases in the lower part of the highboy and then wash the endless dishes, endless pots and pans.

By now — getting on toward — Ward would be filling the straw ticks with the new straw from straw rick, and Mama would them up with a darning needle and twine thread. Then the old straw thrown into the hog pen and theing and scrubbing would go on.



Grace McNeil (shown here right) with sister Neva.

# Spring Cleaning

By Louise McNeill

I one of the great West Virginians when ~~to~~ <sup>really</sup> Louise McNeill was buried on June 9, 1953 — West Virginia Day naturally enough long life overlapped the entire history of ~~WV~~ <sup>WV</sup> and we were proud to have had opportunity to bring some of her prose into

My favorite was "Spring Cleaning," a previously unpublished manuscript she drew from her files in life. Like most of her prose this story deals with the Pocahontas County homeplace which stills have treasured since Revolutionary War

In those gentle years, 1920, our Pocahontas County household was relative. For despite the Great Depression, Granny's temper fits, Mama's annual bouts of housecleaning, our life still moved to the slow, rhythmic of the seasons, and sky roof of our cottage in the meadow the sun fell and the snow gently, and summer rain.

It was a country schoolteacher later a principal and a good, even great, at

He was also a part-time farmer with a pocket and a dream. His name was George McNeill. Nearly everyone in the neighborhood called him "But not to his face, had once been a schoolteacher, but now she was a cook, gardener, seamstress maid, pig woman, boxer, blackberry pie maker, moreover, my mother. She hated it every day

and every season, but particularly when the spring sunshine came in to show it up. So every May or early June she must hold her great spring housecleaning, a rigorous and ancient ritual which we must celebrate from before daybreak until after dead dark.

Not like later when someone would come in to wash the woodwork in my house, Windex my windows, and I'd lug the box of dusty Christmas decorations upstairs. No, my mother, when she spring housecleaned, spring housecleaned; and there was nothing casual in her touch.

On that morning, chosen by moon signs for its promise of "warm and sunny," Mama would be up long before daylight, shaking the kitchen range down, grinding her coffee, putting on the bacon and eggs. Then, breakfast over, we would hurry out to do the milking, strain the milk, slop the hogs, feed the chickens, and start carrying in, by way of three-gallon buckets, a barrel of water from the spring. Then a fire would be built at the wash place

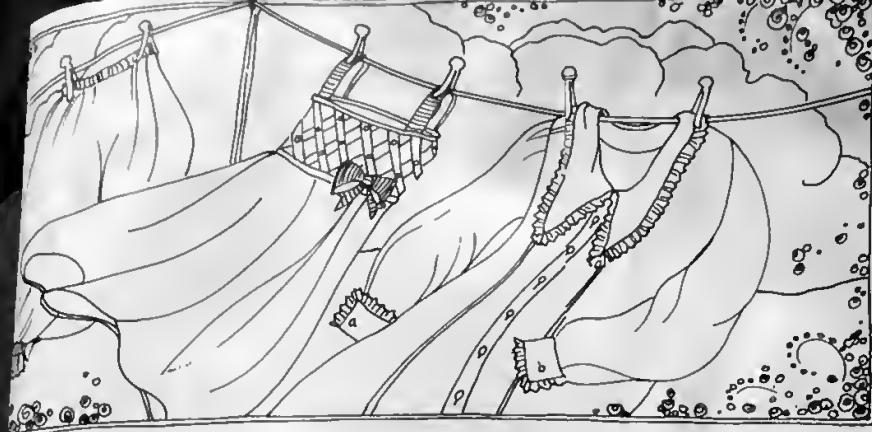


Mother Grace McNeill, shown here (right) with sister Nava, never dressed this way for the annual housecleaning.

and two 20-gallon kettles of water put on to boil.

By then the sun would be up, the yard grass drying, and the fire gone out in the kitchen range. When the stove cooled sufficiently, with G. D. helping we would pick it up and, with great labor and puffing, carry it out into the yard. This done, it was time for G. D. to go off to his manwork, though sometimes, as a boon to Mama's intentions, he would hire a sturdy neighbor woman who would come across the field at sun-up, happy to work for 35 cents a day.

This supported and often with brother Ward, too, staying around to add his carrying power to the festivities. Mama would begin to transfer all our goods and chattels from house to yard. For this was the old custom, to carry every lock, stock, and bobble out of the house, set the wild collection down on the yard grass, scrub it or dust it and sun it; and then, in the late evening, the inside of the house by then scrubbed and squeaky clean, to carry everything back in.



Granny, meanwhile, for she was always on her own individual edge of the activity, would be going over the bedsprings and all the bed tacks and crannies, going over them in that ancient routine of the mountains, with a turkey feather dipped in turpentine. For turpentine is death on bedbugs, and Granny was always certain that our beds had been colonized by the little red, bloodsucking bugs. The bedbug argument was one of the many sources of friction between Granny and Mama, for Mama insisted that there were no bedbugs, while Granny insisted that there were whole settlements of them and would spend half a day with her oily feather, going in and out of all the cracks and crannies in her old pioneer routine. Next she would slosh the bedsteads with buckets of soapy water; and then get her a big thick and start beating and flailing at the rugs.

The rugs, with one exception, Mama's 9-by-12 from the floor of the parlor, were not rugs, actually, but home-woven cotton carpets, the ones that Lydia Allen, up on Dry Creek, wove on her great clacking loom. None of the women of our house could weave carpets now — the old skills passing slowly and silently — but Lydia Allen could still weave, and also Grandma Sis- san and Cousin Mahalie, though Lydia did most of the neighborhood carpets now.

So Mama, when new carpet was needed, would cut carpet rags in

the winter, cutting their long strips from pieces of worn-out clothing, then sewing the strips together, and winding them into great basketball-sized balls. Then she would carry the great soft multicolored balls up the creek to Lydie, and, when the carpet was woven, would nail it down on the floor with carpet tacks, the old square-topped kind.

These carpet tacks, though only around the carpet edges, could wreak havoc on a child's bare feet, and turpentine would have to be poured down into the little puncture holes. Then, too, this carpet would become, during a long year's season, a great catch-all for dust and dirt. And though Mama all year, on her day of Saturday cleaning, would sprinkle salt and water on the carpet and sweep up the yellow, dirty salt, still the carpet was a dusty catch-all, and on spring cleaning day must be taken up from the floor, drug out into the yard, then beaten and turned over, and beaten again with all of Granny's fury; while the dust rose from it in yellow logs; and the dog barked; and the chickens ran and cackled; and the wham-wham of Granny's beating stick echoed against the smokehouse wall.

At noontime we would hurriedly eat the cold lunch Mama had prepared for the occasion and then hurry back to the conflict. The window curtains must be washed and stretched, the wearing clothes carried back into the house to their pegs and to our one closet, so that

the scatter rugs could be put on the clothesline and beaten with paddles and sticks.

By now the hired woman would have the inside of the house all clean and soap-smelling, and we could begin to carry in our gear. The heavy old carpet came first, and we would drag it heavily and pull it into place. Then Mama and Ward, crawling on their knees, would attempt to stretch it and tack it down, thus to cover up, for another dusty season, the old Captain's wide-board cherry floor.

It would be almost dusk when we sat down to supper, and the cows still to be milked, the eggs still to be gathered, but Mama would glance around the dining room with a look of weary satisfaction. For though the ceiling still leaked, and the old wallpaper still hung in bubbles, the room was full of soap and sweet-ness. Then one time, I remember Mama going into the Captain's room in the twilight and setting up in the very middle of the table a bunch of pink flowers in her pretty glass dish. And all the room smelled of sweet flowers and brown soap and sunlight; and I can smell it now, and the harsh old brown soap smell makes the tears sting in my eyes.

The empty scrubbed rooms of the house would seem, at this juncture, very big and silent, with all their people gone. I would walk through the echoing rooms, smelling the sun and soap, and then, staring into the corners, would sense the presence of the old Captain as he had worked,

of Country - Indian + rains used as  
1 2 in other places.

Norman Rose - 14 yrs - 15 ft height  
He saw some trees - field over  
old house,

monument being erected - 176 ft  
Pioneer settlers of Swanton area  
Thomas McNamee

in. & all possible grace land.

Lectricity came to Buckeye in  
Sept. 1911 - G. D. & W. W. Yer-  
ing Salesmen - \$3.00 per mo. oper-  
ating fees as Bill Rogers - fees too  
high (Paul's Division Present time at  
approx.).

+ model car built

Well Cassing - in field below  
bridge on Buckleys - still  
about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ft. out ground - we  
used to go down that was there

bridge on Buckleys - Still there  
About  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ft. out of ground - well  
Used for Comm. that was there then.

Susie or Hennie can add to or  
Contradict my reasons, since they  
are older than I am.

School House on Dry Creek - Aunt  
Edna taught there some - Bill  
McGill possible gave land.

Electricity came to Buckley in '39  
Capt. Kellingsworth - G. D & W. W. Graham  
Bill <sup>to town</sup> big subscribers - 3<sup>00</sup> per mo. per mile  
as far as Bill Rogers - fee took it  
T. P. Paulist Denman present home at own  
expense.

1916-17-18 <sup>Model</sup> ~~Model~~ Cars in this part  
of Country - Indian + rails used as roads  
- 2 in our place.

Norman Rose - 14 yrs - 1<sup>st</sup> Airplane  
he saw come over - field over toward  
old house,



"Susie or Herman can add to our  
Contract if they want, Service  
will add them if em.

Nov 2  
in the  
School house on Self Creek - Green  
Edna taught there some - Billie  
and Eddie possessive gave land.

let us now praise famous men,  
and our fathers in their generations,  
The Lord apportioned to them great glory.  
His majesty from the beginning,  
those who ruled in their kingdoms,  
There were those who ruled in their power,  
and were renowned for their power,  
giving counsel by their understanding,  
and proclaiming prophecies;  
leaders of the people in their deliberations,  
wise in their words of instruction;  
those who composed musical tunes,  
and set forth verses in writing;  
rich men furnished with resources,  
living peacefully in their habitations--  
all these were honored in their generations,  
and were the glory of their times.  
There are some of them who have left a name,  
so that men declare their praise.  
And there are some who have no memorial,  
who have perished as though they had not lived.

But these were men of mercy,  
whose righteous deeds have not been forgotten;  
their prosperity will remain with their descendants,  
and their inheritance to their children's children.  
Their posterity will continue for ever.  
And their glory will not be blotted out.  
Their bodies were buried in peace.

People will declare their wisdom,  
And the congregation proclaims their praise.

|                              |                 |  |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Opening Remarks . . . . .    | Bix.<br>6th gen | Stacy McClellan<br>7th gen                           |
| Scripture . . . . .          |                 | (Ecclesiasticus 44; 1-4 ac,<br>5-9 ab, 10-11, 13-15) |
| Prayer . . . . .             |                 |  |
| Poem - "The Flame" . . . . . |                 | written by Louis<br>read by Annabel                  |
|                              |                 | Ancestral  |

--Ecclesiasticus 44:1-4ac,5-9ab,  
10-11, 13-15

Reception to be held immediately following  
Dedication Service at the White House, W  
stands on the original Thomas McNeill la

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10-11, 13-15

Buckeye, West Virginia

1:30 P.M.

October 24, 1981



SERVICE

MONUMENT DEDICATION

THOMAS MCNEILL



Dixie Farm - Dixie Tribe Indians Bath Co.

20th - Received 1784 - from  
Thomas McNeill - 1768 - 1989 = 221 yrs.  
Original 300 A - Served Am. Rev. - 2 exiles  
Under earth Black - Underground shelter

Jonathan -

Wm. The Trasher -

Capt. Jem - 1823-1911 - Captain Civil War - Droop Mt.  
18 mo. 44 released by Union - Yankees

H. D. - 1877-1964 = Prof., Lawyer, Teacher, Traveller,  
Writer -

→ Louise - State Poet Laureate -

Jem - Blig - Janice

8 generations -

Dear Clan - Isle of Barra - Scotland - Phil - by  
Frederick Co. Va. - Diego - Castle still exists  
in good condition.

Indian Braves -

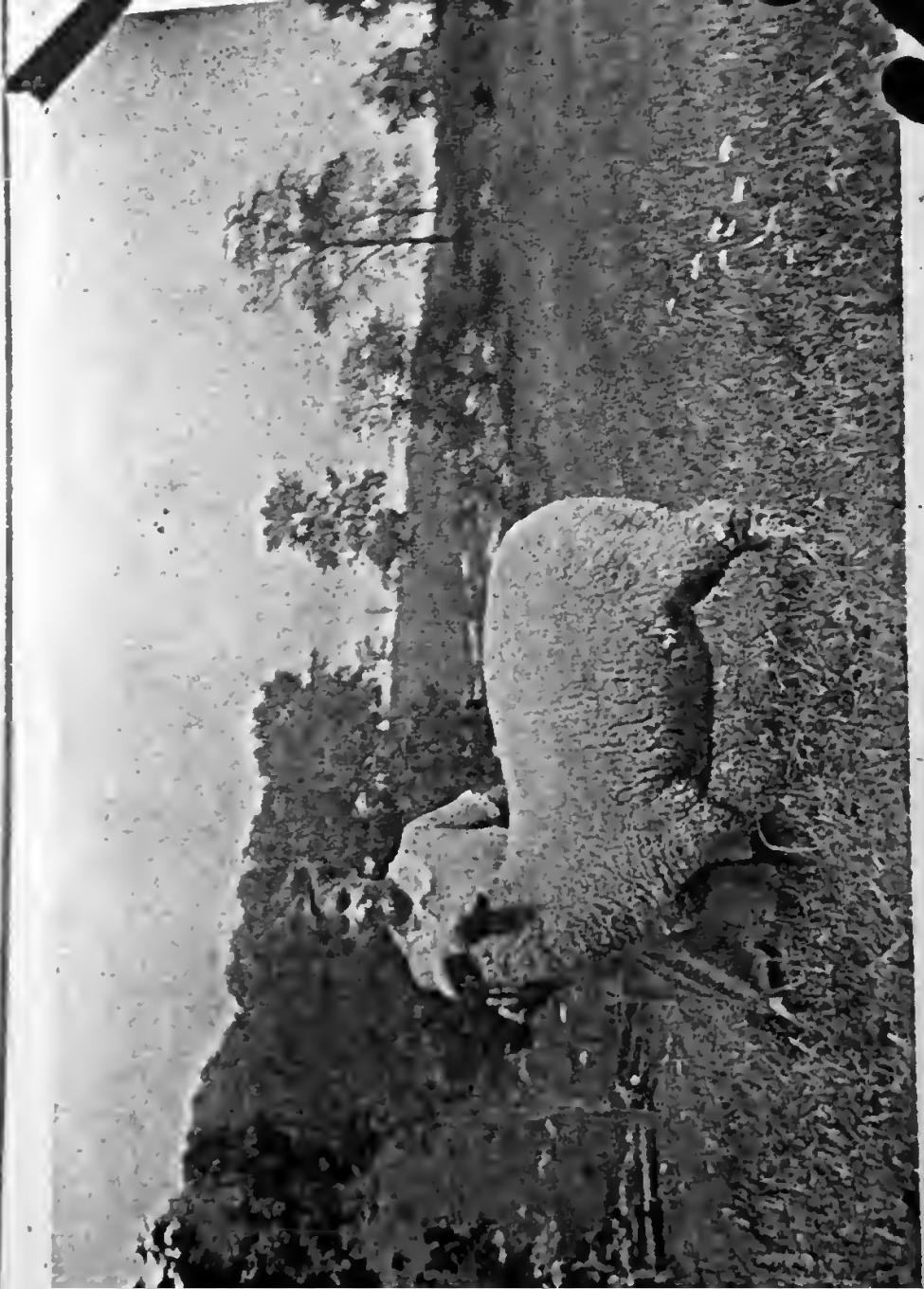
Dixie Chest - Tool box - Walnut made of Jacaranda wood  
Cabinet - beds - Table. (Cherry Dug out)

24<sup>th</sup> Dry Dec. 1774 -

Robert Brooke, Roanoke Nov. Va. = 215 yrs.  
1774 -









"The Proper Upraising"  
Dealse McNeal, Jessica Fanber, Melissa Galford

Connie Sue Campbell, Stacy Sharpe, Joshua Hunter  
"Afternoon Callers"

Geraldine Dilley, Almira Shrader, Barbara Campbell,  
Todd Gay, Katie Gay, Brian Snyder

THE NIGHT PARADE ..... Charles Edward McElwee

"Won't You Come Home, Bill Bailey?" ..... Barbershop Quartet

"Play Me An Old Fashioned Waltz"

ANTICIPATING THE PICNIC ..... Candy Harper, Mary Silman, Rebecca Perry

THE AFTERNOON EVENT ..... Natalie Austin

SUGAR 'n SPICE ..... Dorothy Jesse

PINK STRIPED SILK ..... Barbara Jane Shaw

"Excitement of the Age"

Dolmar Dilley, Frank Lindagood

LINEN DUSTERS

Nancy Daugerty, Helen Davis

THE BLACK TAFFETA ..... Diana Cooper

LADIES' SPORT ..... Libby Rexrode

THE SOPHISTICATED AGE ..... Dreams Burns

THE FLAPPERS ..... Kitty Gwathmey and Pam Ladd

THE BLACK LACE ..... Isabel McElwee

CHIFFON EVENING GOWN ..... Vera Ann Curry

#### "A CENTURY OF FASHION"

assisted by

Honston Simmons Ernest Shaw

#### FINALE

"The West Virginia Hills" ..... H. W. Engle  
[Audience Join In Singing]

Oh, the West Virginia hills!  
How majestic and how grand,  
With their summits bathed in glory  
Like our Prince Immanuel's land!  
Is it any wonder then,  
That my heart with rapture thrills,  
As I stand once more with loved ones  
On those West Virginia hills!

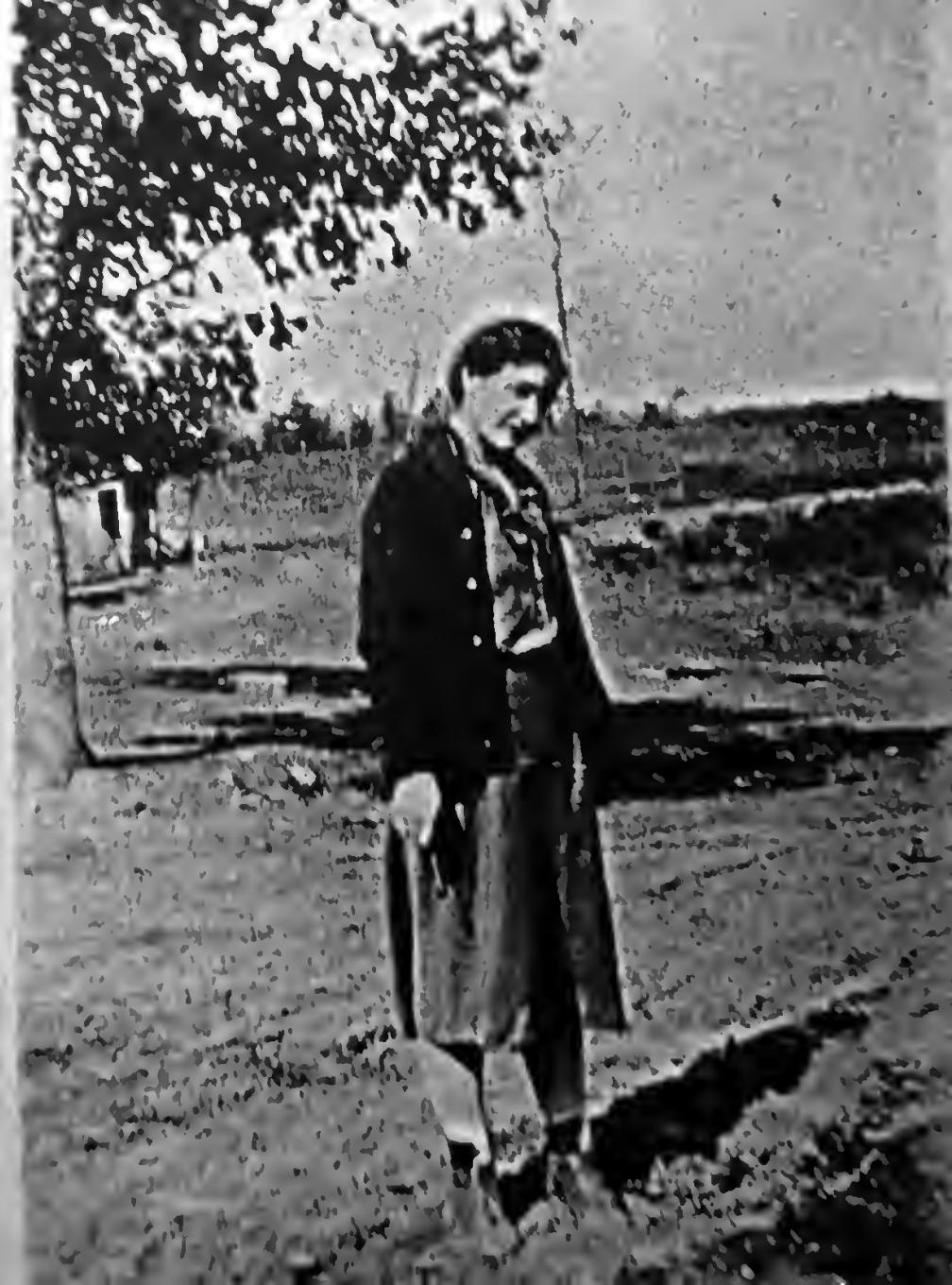
#### CHORUS

O the hills, beautiful hills,  
How I love those West Virginia hills;  
If o'er sea or land I roam

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| POETRY READING .....            | Dr. Louise McNeill Pease  |
| "My Home Among the Hills" ..... | E. W. James, Jr.  |
| Soloist .....                   | Rebecca Perry   |
| Barbershop Quartet .....        | Charles Fauber, Daniel Curry,<br>Larry Yagodzinski, Harry Holsopple |

## Mementos of the Rolling Years

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Narrator                                      |                           |
| Deloris Hunter                                |                           |
| EARLY SETTLER .....                           | Ina Montgomery            |
| "Apple Butter Makin' In the Fall"             |                           |
| Glenna Hayes, Eva Sbrader, Marguerite Gay     |                           |
| "Yonthful Merriment" .....                    | Dancers                   |
| Rick Barlow                                   | Gray Beverage             |
| Charma Roy                                    | Kathy Underwood           |
| Lowell Underwood                              |                           |
| Dreama Sharp                                  |                           |
| Ken Underwood                                 | Tony Sharp                |
| Laura Howell                                  | Irene White               |
| Mike Friel                                    |                           |
| IRIDESCENT GREEN TAFFETA .....                | Betty Rae Welford         |
| BROWN TAFFETA/BLACK LACE .....                | Carol McNeill             |
| GREY WEDDING SUIT .....                       | Nancy Galford             |
| BROWN WEDDING SUIT/SPOON BDNNET .....         | Frances Baldwin           |
| BLUE WEDDING DRESS .....                      | Susan Vlors               |
| *WIDDW'S WEEDS .....                          | Sbeila Burns              |
| BROWN DRESS/BONNET/EGG BASKET .....           | Nancy Martin              |
| THE ELDERLY COUPLE .....                      | Johnnie and Madelene Hill |
| "When You and I Were Young, Maggie" .....     | Barbershop Quartet        |
| "Camptown Races                               |                           |
| "Saturday Night Ritual"                       |                           |
| Paula Newkirk, Brian Friel,                   |                           |
| Johnny Rose, Charles Edward McElwee           |                           |
| "O'Susanna" .....                             | Barbershop Quartet        |
| "Beautiful Dreamer," "And the Band Played On" |                           |
| ELEGANTLY DRESSED LADY .....                  | Merry Young               |
| PURPLE WITH BLACK LACE .....                  | Annette Kramer            |
| GOLD/BLACK WITH PUFFED SLEEVES .....          | Elizabeth Newkirk         |
| GREEN WOOL/TAFFETA .....                      | Francea McPaters          |
| "The Proper Young Ladies"                     |                           |
| "The Sultor'a Propoal"                        |                           |
| Richard Barlow III                            |                           |
| THE DAINTIES .....                            | Mary White Simmons        |
| THE GHISON GIRL .....                         | Lynette Anderson          |
| THE COUNTRY DOCTOR .....                      | Raymond Gibau             |



~~~~~

## Apparel

Elizabeth Gay  
Marguerite Gay

Evah Harper  
Ann Pennypacker

Louise Barlow  
Sheila Burns

~~~~~

## Make-Up

Natalie Austin

Dana Miller

Nancy Galford

~~~~~

## Staging

Richard Barlow  
Jean Hite

Robert Viers  
Joe Smith  
Mary Jane Galford

Jane Price Sharp  
Harvey Galford

~~~~~

## Properties

Wanda Eye

Pamela Sharpes

~~~~~

## Background Screen Design

Betty Barlow

## IN APPRECIATION

—To the many people who have given enthusiastically of their time and talents;

—To the many persons for lending or wearing cherished and preserved possessions of yesteryear, thus making this presentation possible.



# PIONEER DAYS

presents

*West Virginia's Poet Laureate*  
**DR. LOUISE McNEILL PEASE**

*and*

## Mementos of The Rolling Years

• Nostalgic •      • Humorous •  
• Enlightening •

*Authentic Apparel  
Memorable Modes and Manners*

A NARRATED PRESENTATION  
*written and directed by*  
**RUTH M. MORGAN**

Musical Accompaniment  
KATHERINE SNYDER

Augmented by a Barbershop Quartet  
and  
"Youthful Merriment"











**Just eat it.** Food

What happens  
ingredient is . . .  
when the mai-  
roadkill?



the first time in the history of the country, the  
two great political parties have been  
represented in the same cabinet.

After a few days, I began to feel better. I was still very weak, though, and I had to stay in bed most of the time. I was very grateful to my parents for taking care of me, and I tried to eat as much as I could. I also tried to get some exercise by walking around the house and the garden. It took a few weeks for me to fully recover, but I eventually did, and I was able to return to my normal routine.

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DAILY SPECIAL

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Holler Jambais

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We've climbed the mountains together you and I and sometimes we'd stumble, but together we still climbed --higher and higher to our goals using the rocks as a stepping-stone. Onward and onward we'd go. No stopping us from work. We'd never shun but was always ready to advance with the rising sun.

Today your inspiration still reigns in our hearts, as you taught us love, patience and fun right from the start. You give of yourself, your talents without any expectation of recognition. You've been super without a doubt to many a young member just starting out. You've taken our hand and graciously led us on into projects, lessons and crafts without a demand. It's a pleasure to work with ladies never tiring of lending a hand but in doing as well.

You've been especially super and nice. Because today your inspiration still reigns in our hearts, loving you all the while and we sure are happy you're still alive!

Reflections to the world in what you have done and all have copied your style both old and young. You did it with grace and given so much fun. As your job you did, we applaud you as well done. Reflection is like a beautiful rose, laden with due when I think of you!

May God bless you is my prayer and we're looking forward to more years ahead in which to share all the nice things you've done but in doing it all you've been especially nice!

Let us, be encouraged today, or we embark on a new beginning.



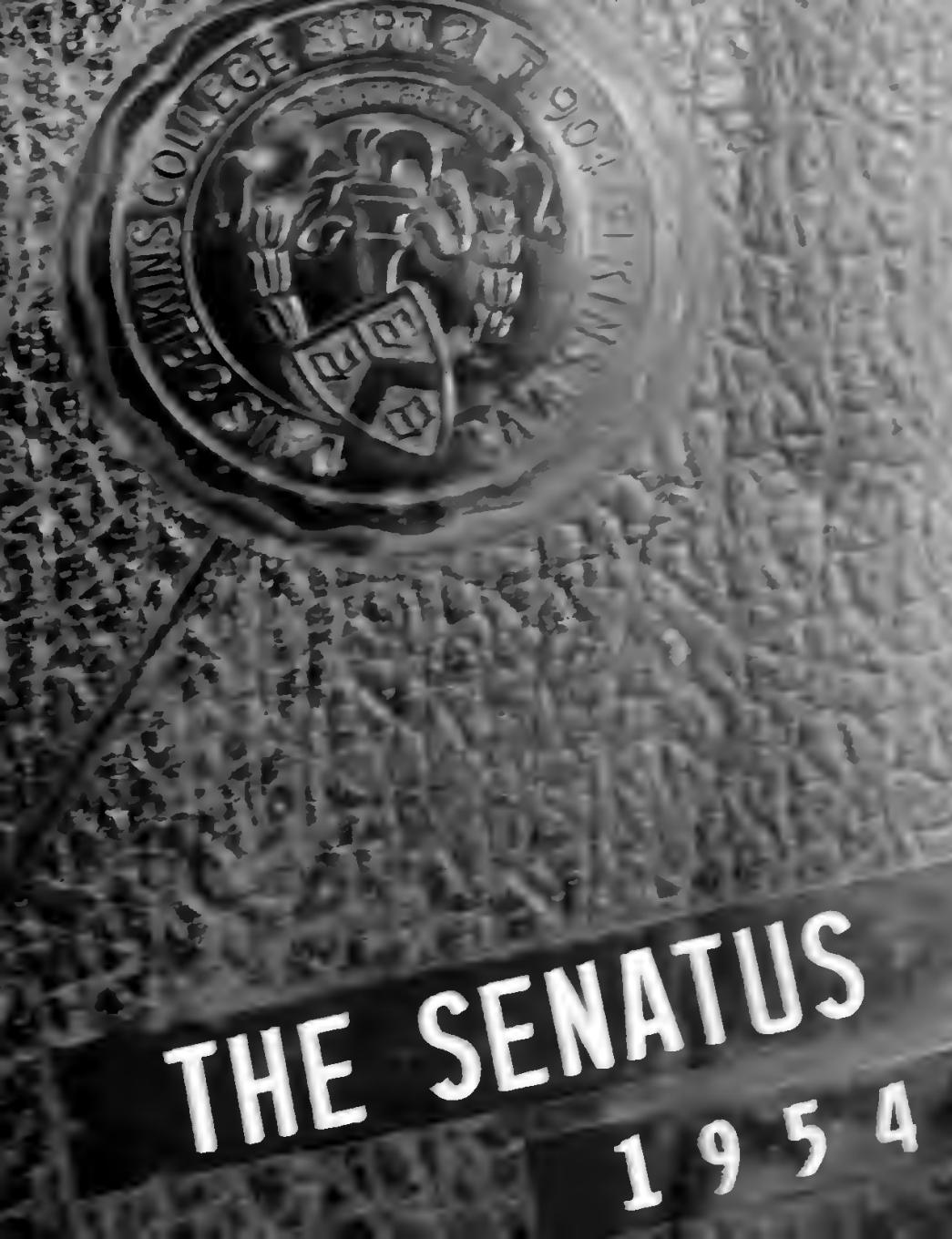
## REFLECTIONS

80 in years but only 40 in Action! A big salute to  
you ladies of the 80's---Seek---Reach---Teach!

Now I've taken pen in hand to write you a line  
Dedicated especially to you ladies so fine.

You found the time to teach and reach each of us that  
follow your steps. You took one end of the rope and  
I the other as you taught us there's always hope in the  
goal to reach as easy as skipping a rope you'd say!  
God has granted you strength and faith as we traveled  
the road together and through your grace you taught  
us to laugh and to smile with love never giving up or  
complaining just always going the extra mile  
explaining----It's really easy you'll see!

In early years you traveled the roads in your Model T  
Ford, laughing merrily and with glee all the way. To  
club meetings you would go with perfect attendance  
always to show. Now in later years you travel in a  
big sleek line and with style but the years has not  
changed because you are still all aglow with a sparkle  
in your eyes, grace in your steps and a glowing smile.



THE SENATUS  
1954

Opening Remarks . . . . . Blix McNeill  
6th generation

Scripture . . . . . Stacy McCallister  
7th generation  
(Ecclesiasticus 44: 1-4 ac,  
5-9 ab, 10-11, 13-15)

Prayer . . . . . Grady Moore  
Ancestral Relation

Poem - "The Flame" . . . . . written by Louise McNeill  
read by Annabelle McNeill

Reception to be held immediately following  
Dedication Service at the White House, which  
stands on the original Thomas McNeill land.





### DR. MCNEILL

Professor George Douglas McNeill is a native of Pocahontas County, West Virginia, and received his early education in the public schools of West Virginia. He holds an A.B. Degree from Concord State College, A.M. Degree from Miami University, and the LL.B. and LL.M. Degrees from the National University Law School of Washington. He also pursued graduate study at West Virginia University and the University of Cincinnati. He was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from Davis and Elkins College in May of 1951.

Professor McNeill has practiced law in West Virginia courts and has served as Prosecuting Attorney for Pocahontas County. In his youth Dr. McNeill served as Yeoman in the U. S. Navy and was with the Round-the-World Fleet, 1907-09. He has taught in the public schools of West Virginia and has served as administrator both in high schools and the grade schools. For many years he has served Davis and Elkins College as a professor and Head of the Department of Social Sciences. He is the author of elementary school texts and is the author of a volume of shortstories, *The Last Forest*.

We shall all remember Professor McNeill as a distinguished teacher, author, and servant of Davis and Elkins College.





